

Professional Development Forums

February 1999 The Honorable Pete Sessions, U.S. Congressman, Fifth District of Texas

Elected in 1997, Congressman Sessions has served on three key House Committees: Banking and Financial Services, Government Reform and Oversight, and Science. He has recently accepted a position on the powerful House Rules Committee. Congressman Sessions also chaired the Results Caucus which was formed to address major management problems within the Federal government. He has championed reductions in the Federal budget and the size of government, and introduced a bill to eliminate the deficit by fiscal year 2002.

Congressman Sessions shared his views on reducing the operating costs of the Federal government and reducing waste, fraud and abuse in government operations.

April 1999 The Honorable Christopher Shays, U.S. Congressman, Fourth District of Connecticut

Congressman Shays has served in the House of Representatives since 1987. As former chairman of the Government Reform Committee's Human Resources Subcommittee, he held hearings on Medicare and health care fraud, leading to passage of the law making health care fraud a Federal offense. Congressman Shays was also the driving force behind the Congressional Accountability Act, which requires Congress to live by the laws it sets for the rest of the country. He currently serves on the House Budget Committee as well as the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Congressman Shays provided an extensive explanation of the demands and operations of a Congressional office.

July 1999 Supreme Court Decision (NASA v. FLRA et al) Presented by U.S. Department of Justice-OIG

This decision affirmed a Federal employee union's right to represent bargaining unit employees when an Office of Inspector General investigator interviews an agency employee regarding matters that may result in disciplinary or adverse action.

The forum addressed the impact of the decision for all Offices of Inspector General as well as the specific effects on OIG activities.

September 1999 G. Edward DeSeve

Mr. DeSeve, the former Deputy Director of OMB, is currently with KPMG Peat Marwick LLP. He expressed his thoughts on potential improvements that could be implemented for managing government. He also addressed the importance of Inspectors General in ensuring that necessary steps are taken to improve the efficiency of government.

**January 2000 Electronic Commerce in Government
Danny L. Barkley, FBI, Financial Crimes Section,
Governmental Fraud Unit**

Mr. Barkley is the Program Manager for Fraud Against Government Programs related to procurement, entitlement, and contracts. He currently serves as the FBI's Program Manager for Electronic Commerce in the Government Fraud Program which includes electronic funds transfer and smart card technology. Mr. Barkley provided explanations of the different types of electronic fraud and ways to combat electronic offenses.

**June 2000 Internet-based Electronic Audit Management (I-BEAM)
Russell A. Rau, Assistant Inspector General for Audit,
NASA-OIG**

Mr. Rau presented lessons-learned in the transition to I-BEAM and the use of Internet, an Intranet, and other electronic technology. This presentation covered both managing the overall audit program and conducting individual audit assignments. The techniques covered included the use of electronic working papers, electronic distribution of audit reports, online audit policies and report writing guidance, online input and access to the audit management information system, and use of a Virtual Private Network. The presentation emphasized that agencies should initiate the transition to I-BEAM now rather than later. Delay will only make the step from paper-based auditing and audit management into a giant leap as technology continues to advance and becomes increasingly complex.

August 2000 Evaluation: Methods and Milieu

George F. Grob, Deputy Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, Department of Health and Human Services

Evaluation has now become a staple in the IG pantry. However, not everyone in the IG community has had first hand experience with it. Although a quick dose of it may sometimes solve a decision maker's immediate needs, an evaluation is most effectively served up in the broader context of other IG offerings, such as audits and investigations. Its methods are, therefore, best understood in this broader milieu. This training program will present a broad sampling of evaluation methods, while illustrating its relationship to the more traditional IG products. It will also discuss and illustrate: IG independence, collaboration with decision makers, the nature and adequacy of proof, the interplay with the private sector, and the nature of the policy making process and the connection of IG products to it. The examples will be taken from the fields of Medicare, public health, and social services, but have broad applicability to other fields.